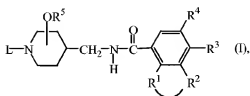


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

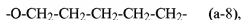
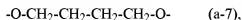
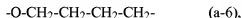
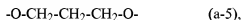
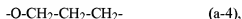
### Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

$-R^1-R^2-$  is a bivalent radical of formula



wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl or hydroxy,

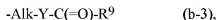
$R^3$  is hydrogen, halo,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy;

$R^4$  is hydrogen, halo,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl substituted with cyano, or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy;

$C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino;

$R^5$  is hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and the  $-OR^5$  radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is a radical of formula



wherein each Alk is  $C_{1-12}$ alkanediyl; and

$R^6$  is aryl;

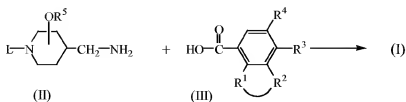
$R^7$  is aryl;

X is O, S,  $SO_2$  or  $NR^8$ ; said  $R^8$  being hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

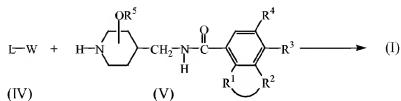
R<sup>9</sup> is aryl;

Y is a direct bond, O, S, or NR<sup>10</sup> wherein R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and aryl represents phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 ~~substituents each independently selected from~~ hydroxycarbonyl.

2. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the -OR<sup>5</sup> radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.
3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).
4. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein L is a radical of formula (b-2) wherein Alk is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkanediyl, and R<sup>7</sup> is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl.
5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] compound as claimed in claim 4 wherein Alk is 1,3-propanediyl or 1,4-butanediyl.
6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein R<sup>7</sup> is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl situated at the 3- or 4-position of the phenyl moiety.
7. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
  - a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



- b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (V), in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base;



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals -R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>2</sup>-, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

c) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

11. (New) A method for the treatment of 5HT<sub>4</sub> related disorders comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

12. (New) A method for treating patients suffering from gastrointestinal conditions comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. (New) A method for treating <sup>gastrointestinal</sup> hypermotility, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation or diarrhea predominant IDS, pain and non-pain predominant IBS and bowel hypersensitivity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.